

a2 5. (amended) A method for labeling of individual cells comprising:

providing at least one target cell, said target cell having a cell membrane;  
providing at least one metal particle coated with at least one lipophilic dye;  
propelling said coated particle toward said target cell to thereby cause said coated particle to contact said cell membrane for a time sufficient to cause labeling of said target cell by release of said dye from said particle.

a3 10. (amended) A method for labeling of individual cells comprising:

providing a plurality of target cells;  
providing a plurality of metal particles coated with at least one dye;  
propelling said coated particles toward said target cells to thereby cause said coated particles to contact said cells for a time sufficient to cause labeling of said target cells by release of said dye from said particles.

a4 14. (amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising controlling distribution of the dye coated metal particles to improve imaging of the target cells by causing said at least one macroprojectile to contact a macroprojectile stopping means before contacting said target cells, said macroprojectile stopping means capable of stopping said macroprojectile while allowing at least one coated particle to continue toward said target cells.

a5 18. (amended) A method for labeling of individual cells comprising:

providing at least one metal particle containing at least one lipophilic dye selected from the group consisting of DiO, DiI, DiD and any combination thereof to form a coated particle;  
providing at least one target cell, said target cell having a cell membrane;  
propelling said coated particle toward said target cell to thereby cause said coated particle to contact said cell membrane for a time sufficient to cause labeling of said target cell by release of said dye from said particle.

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34. (amended) A method for labeling individual cells comprising:

providing a plurality of target cells;

a6 providing a plurality of metal particles containing a plurality of nucleotide sequences encoding fluorescent proteins having different emission spectra; and

propelling said plurality of particles toward said plurality of cells to cause said particles to enter said cells and reside in said cells such that expression of the proteins occurs.

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Please add the following new claims:

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41. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the metal particle is selected from the group consisting of ferrite crystals, gold, and tungsten.

42. (new) The method of claim 5, wherein the metal particle is selected from the group consisting of ferrite crystals, gold, and tungsten.

a7 43. (new) The method of claim 10, wherein the metal particles are selected from the group consisting of ferrite crystals, gold, and tungsten.

44. (new) The method of claim 18, wherein the metal particle is selected from the group consisting of ferrite crystals, gold, and tungsten.

45. (new) The method of claim 34, wherein the metal particles are selected from the group consisting of ferrite crystals, gold, and tungsten.

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